

VA PARENTS' DIC CHECKLIST FOR MILITARY CASUALTY ASSISTANCE OFFICERS

Benefit - Parents' DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) is an income-based monthly benefit for the parents, or parent, of a military service member or veteran (hereafter referred to as "veteran") who died from:

- a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training,
- an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty while on inactive duty for training, or
- a disability compensable by VA.

Relationship - The term "parent" includes a biological, adoptive, and foster parents. A foster parent is a person who stood in the relationship of a parent to the veteran for at least one year before the veteran's last entry into active duty.

Maximum Annual Benefit*

Sole Surviving Parent	\$5,568
<i>with Aid & Attendance Allowance (A&A)</i>	8,568
Sole Surviving Parent Living with a Spouse	5,568
<i>with A&A</i>	8,568
One of Two Parents Not Living with a Spouse	4,008
<i>with A&A</i>	7,008
One of Two Parents Living with a Spouse	3,768
<i>with A&A</i>	6,768

**Benefit rates are effective December 1, 2002. Rates change annually.*

Income Limits* - Eligibility to Parents' DIC is based on need. When a parent's income exceeds the limit, no benefit is payable. Eligible parents must report all sources of income to VA; for example, gross wages, retirement annuity, insurance proceeds or annuity, interest, and dividends. The spouse's income must also be included if living with a spouse. A spouse may be the other parent of the deceased veteran, or from remarriage. The following are the current income limits:

Sole Surviving Parent	\$11,024
Sole Surviving Parent Living with a Spouse	14,817
One of Two Parents Not Living with a Spouse	11,024
One of Two Parents Living with a Spouse	14,817

**Income limits are effective December 1, 2002. Limits change annually.*

Unreimbursed Family Medical Expenses - These expenses may be used to reduce countable income. They are amounts actually paid by the parent during the calendar year for medical expenses, for themselves and for relatives they are under an obligation to support, which the parent is not reimbursed by insurance. In computing the parent's income, VA will deduct the amount the parent paid for medical expenses if found qualified by use of a formula provided by law.

To Apply for Parents' DIC - Based on the above guidelines, any parent who feels he or she may be eligible should apply for Parents' DIC. VA will determine eligibility and inform the parent. VA Form 21-535 [Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)] should be used to apply. It should be sent to the VA Insurance & Regional Office Center, P.O. Box 8079, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Applications may be faxed to that office: (215) 381-3084.